## NEW STANDARD SET BY SUMMER STOCK

Demand for High Grade Entertainment Reflected in Local Companies.

**COLUMBIA PLAYERS** OF UNIFORM MERIT

Aborn Opera Has Auspicious Opening-Program Offered for This Week.

## By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

Daisies have been persistently bloom ing, the grass around the Capitol has trimmed, and the Washington baseball club has struck bottom, but not until the past week did we know that spring was really here. Then came the first straw hats and the summer stock

The Messrs. Mettzerott and Berger, Apostles of Rejuvenation, Inc., have scored again by demonstrating two things: That stock offerings can be as capably presented and as appropriately staged as productions designed for the road if one knows how, and that the Columbia Theater can be cool and comfortable in summer as well as "cozy" in They will ever rejuvenate 'Aunt Mary" next week,

Through the lobby of the National Theater foliage and flowers form a background, while canaries twitter to the melody of the Aborn Opera Com-

An Oriental story in "Madam Butterfly." set to music of Puccinl's vigorous omposing and a return engagement of John Mason will round out the regular season at the Belasco. After that the house will not be dark, but plans for the summer are being kept exceeding-

a new undertaking. The assembling of the cast seen last week in "The Three of Us" is a tri-umph. There is no star, therefore, each umph. There is no star, therefore, each member must be the stronger. Most of Washington saw Miss Julia Dean in "Paid in Full," and whatever the verdict may have been on the Walter play there was little disagreement on the capability of Miss Dean. Without detracting one whit from Miss Dean's credit it can be said that the most pleasing feature of "The Three of Us" as seen last week was the uniform excellence of the cast. In this play are parts that might be glossed over, or that might be developed by genuine acting. In nearly every case each role was made to stand for something.

Has Dramatic Significance

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summer season more than a means of light summer entertainment. If the management can maintain this standard its efforts should have a gen-

means of light summer entertainment. If the management can maintain this standard its efforts should have a genuine dramatic significance. An opportunity is afforded in "The Little Minister." True, the charm of Miss Adams' presence will be missed. Instead the managers hope to develop this play as they believe they could not do with a "star." In the company is a member of the cast that presented the play in London. His suggestions, it is claimed, may serve to throw new high lights on the lesser parts. At any rate the result will be worth watching.

The Aborn company has grown. In numbers it is behind very few companies on the road. The scenic investiture is adequate. The ensembles are richer in volume and of a better quality than those of the same company last year. The Times pointed out in its review of Tuesday that the principals scarcely reflected the improvement of the company in other details. At least one member of the cast suffered from extreme nervousness that wore away as the week passed, and her singing on Friday night was a distinct improvement over her singing on Monday night. The fact that the Aborns are running in other cities will necessitate changes in the cast from week to week, and it is possible that the leading parts in "Robin Hood" were taken by singers below the Aborn standard.

In view of the care expended in other details of this company it is hard to understand the polley of employing such a small orchestra. The expense of a few additional instruments would seem insignificant beside the improvement in effectiveness. The orchestra of last week was inadequate for the full beauty of a De Koven score.

Perhaps the most notable musical event of the week was the reorganization of the Washington Symphony Orchestra. That the concert last Thursday lacked the finish of the Boston symphony was a matter of small moment beside the promise held out by this venture for a permanent symphony orchestra in Washington.

## GRAND OPERA AT THE BELASCO; POPULAR OFFERINGS IN STOCK

THOMAS CHATTERTON,

With Columbia Players.

the characters and scenes in

"The Smart Set," exponents of clear

comedy of the highest class, will be

seen at the Lyceum this week in a new

and thoroughly up-to-date musical com-edy drama entitled "The Black Poli-

edy drama entitled "The Black Politician."

The piece is by S. B. Cassin and is in three acts. The comedy, while side-splitting, is clean and wholesome and the melody is of the jingly, tuneful, whistly sort that at once appeals to everybody.

The plot deals with the effects of two rival candidates after the mayoralty of

a mythical town down South. The staging is said to be excellent.

The booking for the Gayety Theater

this week is C. B. Arnold's "Fads and

The main feature of the engagement will be a musical absurdity in two acts entitled "Flashlights of Broadway." A little of everything that is in vogue this season is said to be worked through

Mats. at 2:20.

the Herbert-Smith Comic Opera.

Regular Matinee Saturday.

NEXT WEEK-SEATS TOMORROW. THE

PRICES

25c, 50c, 75c

'Madam Butterfly" Will Be Sung Here by English Company.

Columbia Players and Aborn Organization Have Attractive Bills.

Since Puccini, composer, presented "fosca" and "La Boheme," eager anticipation follows an announcement of a new book by this composer. His melodles are said to possess remarkable dividuality and freshness in the opera "Madam Butterfly."

After a brief prelude and preliminary

episode, the entrance of Butterfly and her friends is marked with music of Oriental charm and daintiness. Thenceforth all her child-like moods are depicted with skill. In the first act her pretty song, "I'll Weep No More," and Pinkerton's "Child, From Whose Eyes the Witchery is Shining," followed by the final love duet, "Oh! Night of Rapture!" are revelations of Puccini's

The second act is full of passages of notably Butterfly's Song" and her "Lament," and the ex-quisite "Flower Duet." The act ends with a charming effect of a distant chorus chanting a haunting melody outside the shoji, or shop window, at which Butterfly, with her child and maid. Suzuki, maintain their all-night vigil.

A pretentious prelude of the last act pictures the coming of day, which is to see the downfall of trusting Butterfly's hopes.

COLUMBIA-"The Little Minister." A production of uniform excellence

promised patrons of the Columbia Theater tomorrow night when the curtain rises on "The Little Minister." With an augmented cast, bringing out for the first time several new members of the company, the original Lesson of Array.

The dramatic excehence of the Columbia players, the pretentious organization of the Aborn Opera Company, the lengtheried season at the Belasco have a lesson. They indicate a growing demand in the Capital for theating that this entertainment, and more than that, a demand managers must heed, that this entertainment be of the highest order.

To organize a stock company means hard work and requires intimate knowledge of things theatrical. The time for launching such an undertaking listed to the formation of a road company. The manager has not to arrange for the presentation of one play, but for three, four, five or more—the number being determined by the excellence of his arrangements.

The same players arrangements of the Company, the original very large time to the formation of a road company. The manager has not to arrange for the presentation of one play, but for three, four, five or more—the number being determined by the excellence of his arrangements.

This is preliminary to an appreciation of the accomplishment of the Messrs. Mettzerott, Berger, and the Aborns. The Aborns had the advantage. Two successful seasons have developed their organization into a semblance of permanency. The Columbia company marked a new undertaking.

The assembling of the cast seen last

nade," by Harry B. Smith and Victor LYCEUM-"The Smart Set." Herbert. The selection of this opera to follow

"Robin Hood" is most apropos, as well as most convenient, for it demands practically the same accomplishments and thoroughly up-to-date music and personalities in its various roles, though the two works are entirely dissimilar in all other respects.

These two operas were the two greatest successes in the long line of trumphs of the Bostonians.

Smith and Herbert have furnished many delightful pieces for the comic opera stage, and their output possesses such wide variety that it would be hard to say which is their best work, but "The Serende" holds a front rank along with the best of their other compositions.

Helen Bertram and George Frothing.

Tomedy of the highest class, seen at the Lyceum this week in and thoroughly up-to-date music edy drama entitled "The Blacd edy drama

positions.

Helen Bertram and George Frothingham will again be seen and heard in roles they graced with the Bostonians, the former as Yvonne, and the latter in the laughable and thoroughly enjoyable character of Gomez.

CHASE'S-Vandeville.

SUMMER

**OPERA** 

SEASON

MATINEES

AT 2:20

WED. & SAT.

CHASE'S—Vaudeville.

Chase's this week will offer a bill embracing "A Night With the Poets," Hymack, the "chameleon comedian;" the Millman Trio, George McKay and John Cantwell; the Four Rianos, Katie

Mason Will Play Return Engagement of "The Witching Hour."

'Merely Mary Ann" at Columbia, and "The Highwayman" at National.

It will be welcome news to many theatergoers to learn that John Mason in "The Witching Hour" plays a return engagement at the Belasco Theater next

engagement at the Belasco Theater next week.

The time of his recent visit here was during Holy Week, which kept away many who wanted to see this attraction. In spite of this fact "The Witching Hour" is said to have broken all local records for theater attendance during Holy We-k. At that time Manager Taylor endeavored to have Mr. Mason's engagement extended to two weeks, but other contracts prevented. Repeated requests for a return visit have borne fruit and instead of closing the attraction at the end of its present engagement in Philadelphia next Saturday, the Shuberts have decided to keep the company out on; week longer and send it to the Belasco. The same company and production as seen here last month will be seen here next week.

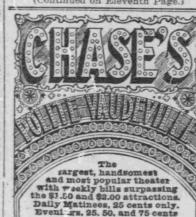
NATIONAL-"The Highwayman." Following the production of "The Serenade" at the New National Theater this week, the Aborn Opera Company Reoney, Milt Wood, and the American will present another Smith and d Koven comic opera, "The Highway man," offering an exact duplicate of the Broadway Theater production, and the usual assemblage of favorites in the

frica."
"A Night With the Poets" is halled the chef d'ouvre of polite vaudeville. Is a dramațic realization of the most mous poems of the poets laureate hittier, Kipling, and Riley. At a thering of boeklovers the poems are ad by the distinguished actor, Clinn E. Lloyd, cast as Robert Lorraine, d a vanishing tapestry reveals tabau vivants of remarkable nature decting the characters and scenes in-"The Highwayman," next to "Robin Hood," is the most pronounced success Harry B. Smith and Reginald de Koven have turned out. Its book is one of those fanciful, unbelievable bits of nonsense, founded on a smattering of English history, conveniently garbed in true comic opera dress to fit the charming romance evolved in the fertile imagination of Librettist Smith. It is rich with unique characters, ingenious complications and everything that tends to excite the risibilities—from the most refined humor and satire to downright buffoonery.

COLUMBIA-"Merely Mary Ann" To

Following "The Little Minister,"
"Merely Mary Ann" will be placed upon
the stage of the Columbia Theater as
the third offering of the Columbia
Players next week.
The play, considered by many, Israel

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)



FORECAST: A Downpou Diversions, Ingenious, De htful, and Comic.

THE ARTISTIC TRIUMPH. "A NIGHT WITH THE POETS,"

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THE FOUR RIANOS.

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MILT WOOD. ADDED ATTRACTION.

MR. HYMACK, "The Chameleon Comedian" What is He Do? And How Does in Do It?

The American Vitagraph.

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bilowing artists will positively appear:
arnes O'Neill, Victor Herbert, William
Her, David Belasco, De Wolf Hopper,
gene Cuvles, Joseph Weber, Charles
in, Wilton Lackaye, George Hamlin,
wilton Lackaye, George Hamlin,
wilton Lackaye, George Hamlin,
wilton Eachaye, George Hamlin,
wilton Eachaye, George Hamlin,
wilton Edward, Eugene W. Presgene W. Presgene W. Presgene M. Presgene W. Presgene W. Presgene W. Presgene W. Presgene W. Presgene M. William Farnum, Joseph Miron, EdEoy, E. Milton Royle, J. E. Kellerd,
b. Leon Moore, Nat M. William, Henry
Blossom, Jr., Robert Hilliam, William
wart, Charles Evans, George V. Hott, Maclyn Arbuckle, Joseph Herbert,
arles Hopper, Melville Stewart, William
fr. J., Frank Belcher, William Burress
an McCloskey, Cyril Scott, Neal Mc
y; John Slavin, John B. Park, William
ildoon, Walter Lawrence, Hassar
ort, A. Baldwin Slosne, Thos. W. Hoss
arles J. Ross, Joseph R. Grismer, Ar
ur Byron, William Courtleigh, Ignaci
artinetti, Clayton E. White, Beujami
art, E. H. Burnside, William Harrigan
allace Eddinger, Augustus Thoma:
en MicDonough, and twenty other Sts
unbs, accompanied by Victor Herbert
rebestra and band of fifty musicians. bs, accompanied by Victor

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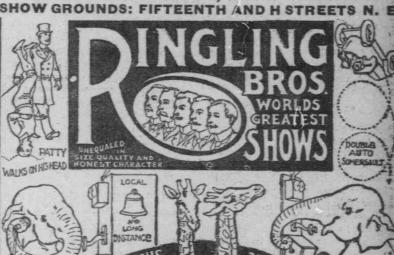
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